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A.—(*a*) The fee payable for the grant of 'G' permits for motor vehicles to ply for hire was fixed in 1916. The scale of fares payable by passengers and the rates of licence fees are determined by each District Board by means of by-laws framed under sub-section (2) of section 166 of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920. As the by-laws were adopted by the several District Boards on different dates no particular date can be given.

(*b*) The Government believe so.

(*c*) The Government have no information.

(*d*) No.

Mr. Basheer Ahmad Sayeed :—" With reference to the answer to clause (*d*), may I know whether he will consider the proposal to reduce the rates of charges for motor vehicles ? "

The hon. the President :—" The question has already been answered."

Mr. Basheer Ahmad Sayeed :—" May I submit that the answer of the Government is that they have not considered the desirability of reducing the rates ? My present question is whether they will consider the question now."

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" No, Sir."

Panchayat Courts

Villagers in each community eligible for membership of the Pudupadi Village Panchayat Court.

* 791 *Q.*—Rao Sahib R. Srinivasan : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state the number of resident adult male villagers, among Brahmans, Non-Brahmans and Adi-Dravidas, eligible to be members of the Pudupadi Village Panchayat Court, Wallajah taluk, North Arcot district ?

A.—Brahmans 11, Non-Brahmans 8, and Adi-Dravidas 1.

Police

Alleged shooting and torture by the Police in Kurnool district.

* 792 *Q.*—Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao : With reference to the reply to my question No. 354 answered on 27th August 1927, regarding shooting and torture by the Police in Kurnool district, will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to place the information called for on the table of the House ?

A.—Yes. A statement is laid on the table.[a]

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" I see from the appendix that the statement is given for the year 1927. My question was what was the number of cases of torture and shooting from 1925 up to date. Am I to take it that in 1925 and 1926 there were no torture cases ? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell :—" The information placed on the table is all that has been reported to the Government. I will make further enquiries whether there were any cases in 1925 and 1926."

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[a] Printed as Appendix VIII on page 400 infra.

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Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" In view of the fact that in the year 1927, excluding the Koilkuntla incident, there were three shooting cases, may I know from the hon. the Law Member whether the Government have taken any steps to find out if proper enquiries were held and whether the police concerned in the shooting were declared within their rights ? "

The hon. the President :—" I wish to know how this supplementary question arises out of the answer. The hon. Member asked for information being placed on the table of the House and that has been done."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" I beg your pardon. These questions are with reference to an earlier question."

The hon. the President :—" The present question has been answered."

Boilers

Officers under the Chief Inspector of Boilers and their qualifications.

*793 Q.—Mr. C. Gopala Menon : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) who are the officers under the Chief Inspector of Boilers and what are their qualifications ;

(b) how many graduates of the Engineering College, Guindy, have been appointed under the Chief Inspector during the last ten years and what are the posts they occupy ;

(c) whether the expenditure of the department for 1926–27 is 28 per cent over the receipts ; and

(d) whether, in order to make the department self-supporting, the Government propose to reduce the number of circles, instead of enhancing the scale of fees for inspection of boilers ?

A.—(a) Mr. J. L. Thompson, A.M.I.MECH.E., fully qualified Mechanical Engineer with first-class certificate.

Mr. S. A. Davis, qualified Mechanical Engineer with second-class certificate.

Mr. O. W. Baskett, practical Mechanical Engineer.

Mr. W. A. Baskett, do.

Mr. H. Knight, qualified Mechanical Engineer with first-class certificate.

All of them have had service as engineers on steamers or in mills and shops.

(b) None.

(c) Yes, about 30 per cent.

(d) The Government considered the question of reducing the number of circles last year : but found it impracticable. They have now under consideration the question of enhancing the fees.

* Mr. C. Gopala Menon :—" Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state why the graduates of the Engineering College were not appointed as Inspectors of Boilers ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :—" I suppose they did not apply at the time of the vacancies."